

1/10/22

Q) What Telecommunication Bill has its own advantages and disadvantages. Discuss.

Ans: Government drafted Telecommunication Bill consolidating outdated laws governing telecommunication to restructure its regulatory framework.

Provisions and advantages:

- 1) **Includes the OTT** — (Over the telecommunication services) under the same licensing conditions as telecom services provider. (level playing field)
- 2) **Allocation** — of spectrum is by auction in sectors of defence or transportation.
- 3) To exploit spectrum resources fully.
- 4) **Process** of restructuring, merging, demerging is simplified.
- 5) **Land** — land owned by public entity should be available expeditiously.
- 6) **USOF** — change of name as telecommunication fund and to be utilised for other purposes as connectivity, research etc.,
- 7) **Consumer oriented** — know your consumer details and name also displayed with phone number.

8) Commercial communications should be made available only with prior consent of a subscriber.

9) TRAI - Reducing it to recommendatory body.

Government no need to take ~~power~~-recommendation from TRAI to issue licences.

Dept. of telecommunication will no longer be required to refer back to TRAI the recommendations for reconsideration.

To P_o Govt b/n regulator & licensees.

Disadvantages

- 1) Privacy of consumer ~~uti~~ can be compromised.
- 2) Rates / prices of OTT services will be increased because of licensing fee.
- 3) Free calls provided by whatsapp / other platforms now will come at a certain cost.
- 4) Gives the government power to issue license without scrutiny by TRAI.

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